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(54) Title: USE OF ALKOXYLATE OF 2-PROPYL HEPTANOL

(57) Abstract

The invention relates to the use of an alkoxylate having the general formula (I): $C_5H_{11}CH(C_3H_7)CH_2O(A)_nH$, wherein A is an alkyleneoxy group having 2-4 carbon atoms and n is 2-16, preferably 3-12, in detergent compositions for degreasing hard surfaces.

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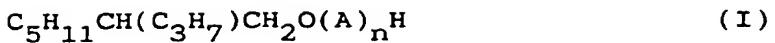
USE OF ALKOXYLATE OF 2-PROPYL HEPTANOL

The present invention relates to the use of an alkoxylate of 2-propyl heptanol in compositions for 5 cleaning hard surfaces. The alkoxylate shows low foaming compared with similar compounds having a hydrophobic group of the same size. The alkoxylate may advantageously be used as a surface-active component in detergent compositions.

10 It has long been known to alkoxylate alcohols for obtaining non-ionic surface-active compounds. These compounds have been used e.g. in detergent compositions because of their wetting and dispersing properties. In a number of applications, alkoxylates of C₈₋₁₁ alcohols 15 have however been found to be too high-foaming and/or not to have the desired detergent power. For example, ethoxylates based on branched C₈ alcohols often exhibit acceptable foaming but too low a detergent power, whereas ethoxylates based on straight or branched alcohols having 20 a larger hydrocarbon chain often show an acceptable surface activity but too high foaming. Thus, there is a need for new alkylene oxide adducts with an improved ratio of foaming to detergent power.

It has now been found that an alkoxylate based on 25 2-propyl heptanol is suitable for use as a detergent in compositions for cleaning hard surfaces, since it has good detergent and wetting properties as well as low foaming as compared with other alcohols having substantially the same chain length. In formulations, the alkoxylate also has a 30 desirable thickening effect. In addition, it has been found that the alkoxylate is easily degradable and has a surprisingly low biotoxicity. In tests, no skin-irritant effect has been noted.

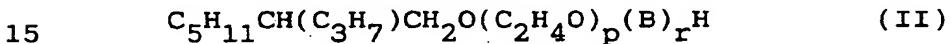
The alkoxylate for use according to the invention can 35 be illustrated by the formula



wherein A is an alkyleneoxy group having 2-4 carbon atoms and n is 2-16, preferably 3-12. Preferably, 50-100% of all 5 alkyleneoxy groups are ethyleneoxy groups. In those cases where different alkyleneoxy groups are present in the same compound, they may be added randomly or in block.

Generally, the alkoxylate is an ethoxylate having 3-7, preferably 4-6 ethyleneoxy groups.

10 In an advantageous mode of execution, ethylene oxide can be added in a first step and thereafter alkylene oxide having 3-4 carbon atoms. These compounds can be illustrated by the formula



wherein B is an alkyleneoxy group having 3-4 carbon atoms, 15 p is 1-10 and r is 1-6. Preferably, p is 2-8 and r is 1-4. These compounds have lower foaming than the corresponding 20 compounds without any alkyleneoxy groups having 3-4 carbon atoms.

The alkoxylates for use according to the invention described above can be prepared by adding in a conventional manner in the presence of a conventional alkali catalyst, such as potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide, 25 the above-mentioned amounts of alkylene oxide to 2-propyl heptanol, which is a so-called Guebert alcohol. According to a preferred mode of execution, the addition of ethylene oxide is performed using a conventional catalyst which gives a narrower distribution of added ethylene oxide than 30 any alkali catalyst, such as NaOH or KOH. Thus prepared alkoxylates according to the invention have very low foaming. Examples of conventional catalysts giving a narrow distribution of added alkylene oxide are Ca(OH)_2 , Ba(OH)_2 , 35 Sr(OH)_2 and hydrotalcite. The reaction is preferably conducted in the absence of free water to reduce the amount of by-products and usually at a temperature of 70-180°C.

The alkoxylate, especially ethoxylate and alkoxylate of formula II, is suitably included in compositions for cleaning hard surfaces, e.g. for degreasing or dishwashing. Especially good results have been obtained when

5 degreasing lacquered or unlacquered metal surfaces. In addition to the alkoxylate, the compositions may also contain other detergents, such as anionic surface-active compounds. Examples hereof are alkyl sulphate, alkyl ether sulphate, alkyl benzene sulphonate, α -olefin sulphonate

10 and alkyl glyceryl sulphonate. Also, the compositions may contain solutising additives, complexing agents and/or pH-adjusting agents, enzymes, other surface-active components, bactericides and perfumes. The compositions are usually aqueous and in the form of emulsions, microemulsions or solutions.

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The invention will be further illustrated by the following Examples.

Example 1

20 Alkoxylates according to the invention are prepared by alkoxylating 2-propyl ethanol with the amounts of alkylene oxide appearing from the Table below in the presence of potassium hydroxide or $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ as catalyst. The resulting products were analysed and structurally determined by

25 gas chromatography and mass spectrometry. The turbidity points were measured in water or monobutylether diethylene glycol. The following results were obtained.

Table 1

| Com- ound | Alcohol | Mole of alkylene oxide/mole of alcohol | Cata- lyst | Turbidity point | |
|--------------|---|---|-------------------|--------------------|-----|
| | | | | Water | BDG |
| 1 | 2-propyl heptanol | 3.0 EO | KOH | - | 40 |
| 2 | 2-propyl heptanol | 5.5 EO | KOH | - | 62 |
| 3 | 2-propyl heptanol | 8.4 EO | KOH | 60 | 73 |
| 4 | 2-propyl heptanol | 3.0 EO | Ca(OH)_2 | - | 29 |
| 5 | 2-propyl heptanol | 5.0 EO | Ca(OH)_2 | - | 52 |
| 6 | 2-propyl heptanol | 7.0 EO | Ca(OH)_2 | - | 61 |
| A | 2-ethyl hexanol | 2 EO | KOH | - | 28 |
| B | 2-ethyl hexanol | 5 EO | KOH | 42 | - |
| C | C_{9-11} alcohol ²⁾ | 4 EO | KOH | - | 62 |
| D | C_{9-11} alcohol ²⁾ | 6 EO | KOH | 56 | - |
| E | C_{9-11} alcohol ²⁾ | 8 EO | KOH | 78 | - |
| F | C_{11} alcohol ³⁾ | 3 EO | KOH | - | 51 |
| G | C_{11} alcohol ³⁾ | 5 EO | KOH | 27 | - |
| H | C_{9-11} alcohol ²⁾ | 4 EO | Ca(OH)_2 | - | 57 |

EO = ethylene oxide; PO = propylene oxide,

BDG = monobutylether diethylene glycol

1) PO added first 2) Dabanol 91 from Shell

3) Dabanol 1 from Shell

Example 2

The foaming properties of the alkoxylates reported in the following Table were measured according to Ross-Miles ASTM D 1173-53. The following results were obtained.

Table 2

| Compound | Foam height, cm | |
|----------|-----------------|-------|
| | 0 min | 5 min |
| 2 | 18 | 7 |
| 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | 5 | 0 |
| 6 | 10 | 5 |
| A | 40 | 10 |
| B | 50 | 0 |
| C | 80 | 20 |
| D | 95 | 30 |
| E | 45 | 15 |
| H | 20 | 5 |

From these results it appears that the compounds according to the invention have lower foaming than the most closely related reference products. Thus, compound 2 has lower foaming than compounds A, B, C, D and E, while compounds 4, 5 and 6 have lower foaming than all the reference compounds.

Example 3

On a vertically disposed, lacquered iron plate, smeared with mineral oils, soot, salts and clay was applied 20 ml of a detergent composition made up of the following components.

| Parts by weight | Component |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 34 | Compound 6 or H |
| 67 | NTA |
| 27 | Ethoxylated quaternary fatty amine |
| 20,000 | Water |

The effect achieved was evaluated both with respect to the area of the cleaned surface (i.e. wettability) and with respect to the cleanliness of the cleaned surface. Cleanliness was evaluated according to an ascending scale of 5 1-10, where 1 indicates that no improvement of the cleanliness could be observed and 10 indicates a completely clean surface. The following results were obtained.

Table 3

10

| Compound | Cleaned surface, cm | Cleanliness |
|----------|---------------------|-------------|
| 6 | 95 | 9 |
| H | 54 | 8 |

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From these results it appears that the formulation containing the compound according to the invention yielded both improved cleanliness and a larger cleaned area.

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Example 4

The microtoxicity, which is a measure of the aquatic toxicity, was determined for the compounds below as the water concentration of the compounds at which the ability of luminescent bacteria to emit light for 5 min is reduced 25 by 50%. The following results were obtained.

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Table 4

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| Compound | Concentrate, ppm |
|----------|------------------|
| 2 | 42 |
| 5 | 31 |
| C | 2 |
| D | 3 |
| F | 1 |
| G | 2 |

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From these results it appears that the compounds according to the invention have essentially lower micro-toxicity than the reference compounds.

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C L A I M S

1. The use of an alkoxylate having the general formula
 - 5 $C_5H_{11}CH(C_3H_7)CH_2O(A)_nH$ (I)
wherein A is an alkyleneoxy group having 2-4 carbon atoms and n is 2-16, preferably 3-12, in a detergent composition for hard surfaces.
- 10 2. Use as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that 50-100% of all the alkyleneoxy groups are ethyleneoxy groups.
- 15 3. Use as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that A is ethyleneoxy groups and n is 3-7.
4. Use as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterised by having the formula
 - 20 $C_5H_{11}CH(C_3H_7)CH_2O(C_2H_4O)_p(B)_rH$ (II)
wherein B is an alkyleneoxy group having 3-4 carbon atoms, p is 1-10 and r is 1-6, p preferably being 2-8 and r preferably being 1-4.
- 25 5. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1-4, characterised in that the detergent composition is a composition for degreasing unlacquered or lacquered metal surfaces.
- 30 6. An alkoxylate, characterised by having the formula
 - 35 $C_5H_{11}CH(C_3H_7)CH_2O(C_2H_4O)_p(B)_rH$ (II)
wherein B is an alkyleneoxy group having 3-4 carbon atoms, p is 1-10 and r is 1-6, p preferably being 2-8 and r preferably being 1-4.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

1

International application No.

PCT/SE 93/00967

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC5: C07C 43/11, C11D 1/72

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC5: C07C, C11D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

CA

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
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| A | US, A, 3340309 (EUGENE A. WEIPERT), 5 Sept 1967 (05.09.67) -- | 1-6 |
| A | US, A, 2508036 (MILTON KOSMIN), 19 November 1947 (19.11.47) -- | 1-6 |
| A | US, A, 3567784 (WILLIAM T. TSATSOS ET AL.), 2 March 1971 (02.03.71) -- | 1-6 |

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

28/01/94

International application No.

PCT/SE 93/00967

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | | Publication date |
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| US-A- 3340309 | 05/09/67 | BE-A- 683227 DE-A- 1593043 FR-A- 1484951 GB-A- 1131333 NL-C- 134504 NL-A- 6608854 | | 01/12/66 23/07/70 00/00/00 00/00/00 00/00/00 29/12/66 |
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